

Alvin

REVISED

3/28/58

ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE

#50

APRIL 2, 1958

" THE TRUSTED THIEF "

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WRITTEN BY:

ALVIN BORETZ

PRODUCED BY:

ROBERT COSTELLO

DIRECTED BY:

WILLIAM CORRIGAN

55
90

ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE - Show of April 2, 1958

CAST LIST

WALTER LENOXHARRY TOWNES

MARIAN LENOX.....MAXINE STUART

RALPH BENSON.....DON BRIGGS

BARBARA.....JACQUELINE KERR

CLYDE HARRIS.....JAMES BENDER

MR. STOCKMAN.....LARRY HADDON

MR. WELBY.....GEORGE L. SMITH

REYNOLDS.....NORMAN SHELLY

SECRETARY.....JUNE EVERT

OTHER MEN (1).....

(2).....

(3).....

(4).....

(5).....

IBM GIRL.....

"THE TRUSTED THIEF"

FADE IN: CLOCK SET 8 SEC. BEFORE

10:00. SUPER EDWARDS

EDWARDS:

Good evening everybody, from coast to coast. This is Douglas Edwards. Tonight ... the story of America's most expensive crime. Its cost .. one billion dollars a year. Its practitioners ... men and women of secrecy and ingenuity. Its results ... destruction of people's lives ... their businesses ... their communities' welfare. It is an ironic crime, filled with tragedy, for most those who commit it are not the nation's habitual criminals ... but rather, its respected citizens.

DISSOLVE TO: LIMBO

(HANDWRITING IN LEDGER)

In just a few moments ... the crime of the embezzler ... THE TRUSTED THIEF ...

SUPER FILM FOR 6 SEC. S.O.F. 35mm

... on the ARMSTRONG CIRCLE THEATRE.
GO THRU TO FILM.

ACT ONE

FADE IN: FLIP: A.C. THEATRE

DISSOLVE TO:

EDWARDS: (OVER)

(LIMBO ART CARD:
1,000,000,000 ON
WHIRLIGIG SPINNING
- IT STOPS)

Total loss.
One billion dollars a year.
Cause. Embezzling.

CUT TO:

(MAIN OFFICE. SECRE-
TARY SEATED AT DESK.
SHE IS PUTTING STAMPS
ON AN ENVELOPE WITH
HAND WRITTEN ADDRESS.
SHE TURNS ENVELOPE
OVER AND SCRATCHES
OUT COMPANY ADDRESS.)

Item. Stamps and stationery
taken for personal use.

(SHE REACHES FOR PHONE
AND STARTS DIALING.)

Item. Use of the company's
phone for private calls.

CUT TO:

(LIMBO EXPENSE ACCOUNT. HANDS FILLING IT IN.)

EDWARDS: (OVER)

Item. Padding of expense accounts.

CUT TO:

(LIMBO SHELF. WORKMAN TAKES BOX OFF SHELF AND HIDES IT INSIDE HIS SHIRT.)

Item. Stealing the company's products.

CUT TO:

(LIMBO CASH REGISTER WITH "NO SALE" REGISTERED. HANDS DIP INTO CASH DRAWER TAKING OUT MONEY AND POCKETING MONEY.)

Manipulating cash receipts.

CUT TO:

(LIMBO MAN IN DELIVERY
CAP HANDING OVER PACK-
AGE, ACCEPTING MONEY
AND POCKETING MONEY.)

EDWARDS: (OVER)

Holding out delivery col-
lections.

CUT TO:

(LIMBO - HANDS TEAR-
ING OPEN ENVELOPE.
MONEY FALLING ON DESK)

Pocketing cash in the mail.
Total of all items. A
billion loss. But even
more important, a loss in
a country's morality.
Why do people do it?

CUT TO:

(MAIN OFFICE. SEC-
RETARY COMES THRU
DOUBLE DOORS. SHE
X TO COUNTER AND
LEAVES AND PUTS RE-
CEPIT PAD ON COUNTER.

Here, in this office, you
will find some of the
answers. An office like
so many others. Routine.
Ordinary. With average
people. People like this
man.

SHE X'S AROUND COUN-
TER AND LEAVES INVOICE
ON WALTER'S DESK. HE
IS SEATED AT DESK
WORKING WITH THE AC-
COUNT LEDGER ON HIS
RIGHT AND THE CHECK
LEDGER ON HIS LEFT.)
(HE IS LOOKING IN
LEDGER AT HIS LEFT
AND WRITING IN LEDGER
AT HIS RIGHT.)

EDWARDS: (OVER) (Cont'd)
He has worked here for twenty-
two years. He is respected ...
honorable. But the impossible
will happen. Within one year's
time, he will embezzle the sum
total ... of fifty thousand
dollars.

DISSOLVE TO:

(LIMBO LEDGER, HANDS WRITING IN IT)

(SUPER CRAWL

TITLE

AUTHOR

STARRING (ONE NAME)

COSTELLO

CORRIGAN)

DISSOLVE TO:

EDWARDS:(OVER)

(MAIN OFFICE.

Name ... Walter Lenox.

WALTER AT COUNTER.

Age, forty-one.

HARRIS TAKING MONEY

OUT OF WALLET - HE

A devoted family man.

GIVES IT TO WALTER

Civic association founder.

WHO GETS CHANGE FROM

Trusted office manager for

CASH BOX AND GIVES

the Benson Paper and Cord-

IT TO HIM. THEN

age Company.

MAKES OUT RECEIPT

AND GIVES IT TO HIM.)

But somewhere inside him ..

(LARGE PACKAGE IS ON

The potential ... of the

US END OF COUNTER.

embezzler.

WALTER LOCKS CASH BOX.

SECRETARY AT DESK IN

B.G.)

HARRIS:

This over the counter stuff I

like to clear up with cash.

WALTER:

Anyway you want it.

HARRIS:

When's your truck going to get

that load of welt cord over to me?

WALTER:

This afternoon, Clyde.

HARRIS:

Thanks, Walter. That'll work out fine. Send me an invoice on it.

WALTER:

Right. (XU)

HARRIS:

You coming to the civic meeting tonight?

WALTER:

I'm going to try. There's going to be a report on the new turn-pike.

HARRIS:

See you later, then. (EXITS)

WALTER:

So long, Clyde.

(WALTER X'S TO SAFE,
OPENS IT WITH HIS
KEYS AND PUTS CASH
BOX IN SAFE. THEN
TAKES OUT MANILA
FOLDER CONTAINING
CHECKS AND STATEMENTS
- LOCKS THE SAFE AND
XU TO HIS DESK WITH
FOLDER AND SITS AND

EDWARDS: (OVER)

Walter Lenox is in charge
here.
Complete charge.
He handles all cash. Sends
all bills. Pays all invoices.
He makes out the payroll for
16 people.
Keeps all books .. for a firm
grossing 400,000 dollars a

OPENS CHECK LEDGER

WHICH IS ON DESK.)

(DOOR OPENS AND BENSON

COMES OUT - X TO WATER

COOLER FOR DRINK.)

EDWARDS: (OVER) (Cont'd)

year. Never in his life ..

has he broken a trust ...

or stolen a penny.

His employer, Ralph Benson,

has unlimited faith in him.

There is no reason ... not

to ...

At least ... not yet.

BENSON: (XD)

Walter ... Did you pay the mill
for that manifold shipment last
month?

WALTER:

Sent them a check yesterday,
Ralph.

BENSON:

Good. I want a re-order and
their credit man puts up a holler
if anything's outstanding. (XU)

WALTER:

Ralph ... you got a minute?

BENSON:

Why not. Comon.

CUT TO:

(BOSS'S OFFICE. BENSON X TO DESK.
WALTER APPEARS IN THE DOORWAY ...
ENTERS ... CLOSES THE DOOR)

BENSON:

Oh, oh ... I'm in for trouble.

Walter closed the door. What
did I do now? (SITS)

(WALTER XD TO DESK)

WALTER:

Nothing, Ralph.

(BENSON GOES THROUGH THE PAPERS ON
HIS DESK AND DRAWERS)

BENSON:

Got something here I want to show
you. If I can find the thing ...
Sit down, Walter. Keep talking,
Walter. What've you got?

WALTER: (SITS)

Well ... I never asked this be-
fore but I know how the accounts
are and I'm sure you won't mind.

BENSON:

Mind what?

WALTER:

If I got my bonus now. A few weeks earlier.

BENSON:

Why not? Sure.

WALTER:

I appreciate it, Ralph. Couple of things I'm planning on and the money's due now. Besides I've made my first payment on a new car. A hardtop. Four door.

BENSON:

Enjoy it. Where is that thing?

WALTER:

You know that conducted tour some of the high school kids are taking this summer? To Mexico?

BENSON:

My nephew's going.

WALTER:

I promised my daughter she could go.